

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

5 A path network and a path network operation method
capable of dealing with an abrupt traffic variation by
realizing fast path bandwidth increase are disclosed. A
path network is operated by transmitting path signals from
a transmitting node to a receiving node through the working
paths and the protection paths, and converting a protection
path into a working path temporarily in order to increase a
10 bandwidth of the working paths when a bandwidth increase
request occurs in the path network. The transmitting node
and the receiving node can convert a protection path into a
working path by using the automatic path conversion
information contained in the path overhead attached to the
15 path signals.

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